

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11225 171828Z

43

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11225

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON YOUNG GROMYKO

1. IN VIEW APPOINTMENT OF FONMIN GROMYKO'S SON, ANATOLIY ANDREYEVICH, AS MINISTER-COUNSELOR AT SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO UPDATE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION ABOUT YOUNG GROMYKO BASED ON RECENZ EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH HIM.

2. GROMYKO TOLD ME THAT HE WILL BE OCCUPYING A NEW POSITION, ADDITIONAL TO THE ONE NOW HELD BY VORONTSOV, AND THAT HE WILL BE CONCENTRATING ON ANALYSIS OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY STRATEGY IN LIGHT OF WHAT PRESIDENT NIXON TERMED "NEW DIMENSIONS" OF DIPLOMACY, SUCH AS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION. (AN MFA SOURCE COMMENTED THAT VORONTSOV AND GROMYKO WOULD BE EQUAL IN RANK BUT THAT PROBABLY VORONTSOV WOULD ACT IN DOBRYNIN'S ABSENCE IN VIEW OF HIS LONGER EXPERIENCE; ANOTHER MFA SOURCE SAID VORONTSOV WOULD SOON BE REPLACED BY V. M. VASEV, PRESENTLY DEPUTY CHIEF SECOND EUROPEAN DIVISION, BUT WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS KORNIYENKO SAID IT HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED.)

3. IN LONG AND SOMEWHAT PROGRAMMATIC TOAST AT LUNCHEON WHICH I GAVE FOR HIM, GROMYKO EMPHASIZED
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11225 171828Z

HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO DETENTE AND AT THE SAME

TIME REITERATED THAT ATTEMPTS TO PRESSURE THE USSR REGARDING ITS INTERNAL POLICIES WOULD BE REBUFFED.

4. IN HIS POSITION AS SECTION CHIEF AT USA INSTITUTE, GROMYKO HAS MADE HIMSELF QUITE ACCESSIBLE TO THE EMBASSY BOTH OFFICIALLY AND SOCIALLY. SINCE THE MOSCOW SUMMIT HE HAS CONSISTENTLY LEANED TOWARD THE POSITIVE SIDE OF THE CURRENT SPECTRUM OF VIEWS ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. GROMYKO'S UPBEAT VIEWS COME THROUGH DESPITE HIS OCCASIONAL LAPSES INTO CLICHES (PERHAPS A CARRY-OVER FROM HIS UPBRINGING).

5. GROMYKO'S WORK AT THE INSTITUTE HAS MOVED AWAY FROM HIS INITIAL FOCUS, BASED ON HIS DOCTORAL DISSERTATION, ON THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS. DEPARTMENT MAY WITH TO NOTE HIS RECENT ARTICLE IN ISSUE NUMBER 9 OF MFA'S HOUSE ORGAN MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN (EDITED ANONYMOUSLY BY THE ELDER GROMYKO) ON US FOREIGN POLICY STRATEGY IN THE SEVENTIES. YOUNG GROMYKO NOTES ELEMENTS OF REALITY IN US CONCEPT OF MULTIPOLARITY, SAYS US "RULING CIRCLES" ARE REACTING FLEXIBLY TO CURRENT SITUATION AND ATTEMPTING OVER LONGER TERM TO SEIZE INITIATIVE IN WORLD AFFAIRS, AND ASSERTS THERE ARE "STABLE ELEMENTS OF COOPERATION" IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. GROMYKO CAN ALSO BE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF SOME ASPECTS OF U.S. SOCIETY, AS IN HIS IMPRESSIONS OF VISIT TO U.S. PUBLISHED IN USA MAGAZINE NUMBER 4, 1973.

6. OVERALL, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT YOUNG GROMYKO IS IMPRESSIVE IN HIS OWN RIGHT AS A STUDENT OF U.S. AFFAIRS AND AN APPARENT PROPONENT OF DETENTE. AND, JUDGING FROM OCCASIONAL REFERENCES TO VIEWS OF "CLOSE RELATIVE," HE IS SUFFICIENTLY CLOSE TO HIS FATHER TO MAKE HIM A POTENTIALLY USEFUL CHANNEL TO THE POLITBURO.

7. HE WILL TAKE WITH HIM TO WASHINGTON HIS SECOND WIFE AND THEIR FOUR-YEAR-OLD SON. A TEEN-AGE SON BY HIS PREVIOUS MARRIAGE WILL REMAIN IN MOSCOW. HIS WIFE IS A YOUNG AND CHARMING MUSIC TEACHER, WHO THE LAST TIME WE TALKED TO HER HAD JUST BEGUN STUDYING ENGLISH.

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 11225 171828Z

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